

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method for indexing minimum coded units (MCUs) in a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) bit stream, comprising:

entropy decoding a first minimum code unit (MCU) to determine a first bit offset of a second MCU from a start of the bit stream, wherein the first MCU immediately precedes the second MCU in the bit stream; and

indexing the second MCU by storing the first bit offset in an index.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein:

said entropy decoding a first MCU further comprises determining a first DC coefficient of the first MCU; and

said indexing the second MCU further comprises saving the first DC coefficient in the index, [[:]]

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving a request for the second MCU;

reading the index to determine the first bit offset and the first DC coefficient; and

entropy decoding the second MCU starting at the first bit offset in the bit stream, wherein said entropy decoding comprises:

determining a second bit offset of a third MCU; and

determining a second DC coefficient using the first DC coefficient.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the second MCU immediately precedes the third MCU in the bit stream, the method further comprising:

indexing the third MCU by storing the second bit offset and the second DC coefficient in the index.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 2, further comprising:

entropy decoding the second MCU to determine (1) a second bit offset of a third MCU from a start of the bit stream and (2) a second DC coefficient of the second MCU, wherein the second MCU immediately precedes the third MCU in the bit stream; and

indexing the third MCU by storing the second bit offset and the second DC coefficient in an index.

Claim 6 (original): A method for indexing minimum coded units (MCUs) in a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) bit stream, comprising:

receiving a request for an i^{th} MCU in the bit stream;

determining if the i^{th} MCU precedes a last indexed MCU in the bit stream, wherein the last indexed MCU is a last MCU in the bit stream that has its bit offset from a start of the bit stream stored in an index; and

if the i^{th} MCU does not precede the last indexed MCU in the bit stream:

entropy decoding a plurality of the MCUs up to and including the i^{th} MCU in the bit stream to determine their corresponding bit offsets from the start of the bit stream; and

indexing the plurality of the MCUs by saving their corresponding bit offsets in the index.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein:

said entropy decoding a plurality of the MCUs up to and including the i^{th} MCU in the bit stream further comprises determining a plurality of DC coefficients of the plurality of the MCUs; and

said indexing the plurality of the MCUs further comprises saving the plurality of DC coefficients in the index.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, further comprising:

reading the index to determine a bit offset of the i^{th} MCU; and

entropy decoding the i^{th} MCU starting at the bit offset in the bit stream.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A method for handling minimum coded units (MCUs) in a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) bit stream, comprising:

from an index, reading a first bit offset from a start of the bit stream of a current MCU and a first DC coefficient of a preceding MCU in the bit stream.

entropy decoding the current MCU from the first bit offset in the bit stream, wherein said entropy decoding the current MCU includes determining (1) a second bit offset of a subsequent MCU and (2) a second DC coefficient of the current MCU using the first DC coefficient.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The method of claim 9, further comprising:

entropy decoding the subsequent MCU from the second bit offset in the bit stream, wherein said entropy decoding the subsequent MCU includes determining a third DC coefficient of the following MCU using the second DC coefficient.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The method of claim 9, further comprising:

dequantizing the entropy decoded current MCU;

performing an operation on the dequantized current MCU;

quantizing the dequantized current MCU; and

entropy encoding the quantized current MCU.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method of claim 11, wherein the operation is selected from the group consisting of a linear operation and a pixel replacement operation.

Claim 13 to 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (original): An index of minimum coded units (MCUs) in a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) bit stream, comprising a plurality of the MCUs and a plurality of bit offsets from a start of the bit stream.

Claim 20 (original): The index of claim 19, further comprising a plurality of corresponding DC coefficients.

Claim 21 (original): A data structure for minimum coded units (MCUs) in a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) bit stream, comprising a plurality of MCU block numbers and a plurality of

corresponding editing action lists, wherein each editing action list includes editing operations to be performed to the corresponding MCU block.

Claim 22 (original): The data structure of claim 21, further comprising a plurality of corresponding MCU block coordinates.